Mangrove Forest Areas in Orissa

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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the mangrove forest areas in Orissa;

(b) whether there had been a large scale devastation of mangrove forests in the State due to super cyclone of October, 1999;

(c) if so, the estimated losses caused;

(d) the steps taken to undertake plantation of mangrove trees in these areas; and

(e) whether there is any proposal for sea-shore coastal plantation from Digha Balasore to Berhampur for protection at the time of cyclone?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) According to the Forest Survey of India Report (1997) mangroves cover an estimated area of 211 sq. km. in Orissa. Mangroves in Orissa are found in Brahmani-Baitarani Delta, Mahanadi Delta, Dhamra Estuary, Subarnarekha Delta and Devi/Kadua river delta.

(b) and (c) The State Government has reported that Mangrove forests withstood the fury of super Cyclone with very low loss of Wildlife. Mangrove species were least affected whereas *Casuarina* and other plant species were uprooted.

(d) An amount of Rs. 46.50 lakhs was released to the State Government for implementation of Management Action Plans for conservation of mangroves in Bhitarkanika and Mahanadi Delta during 1999-2000. Additional areas for undertaking plantation of mangroves have been identified by State Government in Dhamra, Subarnarekha and Devi/Kadua river delta. A Task Force constituted by this Ministry has identified 3,000 ha. for intensive conservation and management of mangroves in the State.

(e) Proposals have been received from Government of Orissa for undertaking Coastal Shelter Belt Plantation in the Cyclone hit districts of Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Balasore, Bhadrak and Ganjam.